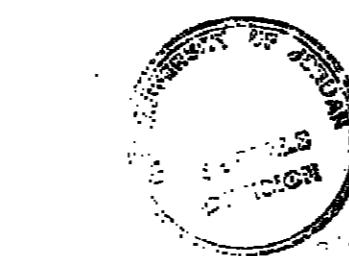


Djerejian named assistant secretary

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The office of the press secretary at the White House has announced the nomination of Edward P. Djerejian to be assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs. He would succeed John Hubert Kelly. Since 1983, Mr. Djerejian has served as Ambassador to Syria. Prior to this, he served as deputy assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, 1985-1986; as a special assistant to the president and deputy press secretary for foreign affairs, 1985-1986; and as the deputy chief of mission at the American embassy in Amman 1981-1984. In addition, he served at the American embassy in Moscow as chief of external affairs in the political section and then as acting political counselor, 1979-1981. Mr. Djerejian was graduated from Georgetown University (1960). He was born March 6, 1939, in New York. He served in the U.S. Army, 1960-1962. He is married, has two children and resides in Bethesda, Maryland.

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King returns home

AMMAN (U.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein returned to Amman from Europe Thursday after talks with several European leaders on the Middle East peace process and addressing the European Parliament on the situation in the region in general and the stand of Jordan in particular.

The main theme for the King's discussions and address was means to advance the peace process and ensure that a Middle East peace conference scheduled for October take place.

In his address to the European parliamentarians and comments to the press in Strasbourg following the speech, the King said that a breakthrough was at hand for peace in the Middle East but also warned of dire consequences if Arab hopes for peace were dashed.

The King reiterated the warning in arrival comments to the press in Amman.

"If things remain as they are now, I believe the area is drifting towards danger," he said. "There is a great deal of frustration and anger and I believe that if this chance is not taken, the loss of hope could bring with it rapid deterioration and extremism."

Germany pledges further moves to assist Jordan

By Serene Halasa
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Germany, one of the first countries to respond to Jordan's appeal for help, is considering setting up a European consultative committee to study aid to help the Kingdom with the influx of hundreds of thousands of refugees from Kuwait and other Gulf states.

This was one of the tangible results of a visit to Jordan last week by Carl Dieder Spranger, Germany's minister of economic cooperation, who also expressed his country's readiness to help Jordan by using its political clout on the international level to enable the Kingdom to contribute positively to the Middle East peace process.

His Majesty King Hussein, upon his return from Europe, held a meeting with Mr. Spranger at the airport Thursday.

In comments to the press at the airport shortly before departure after a three-day visit, the German minister called for the resumption of Arab financial assistance to Jordan.

"The whole world is obliged to help Jordan to remain stable and to enable it absorb the refugees," Mr. Spranger said.

"Arab countries should also help

(Continued on page 5)

Soviets, U.S. to stop arms supplies to Afghan parties

MOSCOW (Agencies) — The United States and the Soviet Union announced Friday they have agreed to halt all arms shipments to warring factions in Afghanistan as of Jan. 1, 1992.

The agreement was announced at a joint news conference by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin.

"Discontinuation of Soviet and U.S. arms supplied to the warring Afghan sides is one of the crucial elements of this agreement," Mr. Pankin said.

The joint statement said the United States and the Soviet Union "call for and pledge to support a democratic and free election process" in Afghanistan.

The two nations requested the United Nations and other "concerned governments, including those of Islamic countries, to work with the Afghans to convene a credible and impartial election mechanism."

The statement said the elector-

al process should lead to establishment of "a new government" that will have the broad support of the Afghan people.

The United States and the Soviet Union urged other countries to join in a cutting off of weapons deliveries to the warring factions and agreed to work towards withdrawal of major weapons systems from that country.

The statement did not mention the status of Afghan President Najibullah, who has had Soviet backing in his effort to defeat U.S.-backed rebels.

When asked about President Najibullah, Mr. Pankin said his fate would be decided in the next few days.

The United States and Saudi Arabia have been principal suppliers of arms to the rebels.

Two major Afghan guerrilla groups who have fought to overthrow the Kabul government since 1979 quickly welcomed the agreement.

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Musawi predicts hostage release

BEIRUT (AP) — A pro-Iranian Shiite Muslim leader said in an interview published Friday that the issue of the Western hostages in Lebanon was on the way to a solution and predicted a hostage release in a week's time.

Hussein Musawi, a ranking member of the Shiite Muslim faction Hezbollah, said the hostage issue was "put on the proper course to a solution when the Americans started exerting pressure on Israel to free the (Arab) prisoners."

"One of the hostages in Lebanon will be released very soon. Maybe in less or more than a week," Mr. Musawi told the newspaper Al Liwa.

Hezbollah (Party of God) is the parent organisation for the factions holding most of the 11 Westerners missing in Lebanon.

Mr. Musawi's remark came a day after two hostage-holding groups sent messages offering cooperation in freeing the Westerners. The messages were accompanied by authenticating pictures of two hostages, American Terry Anderson and Briton Jack Mann.

The comment follows Israel's move, Wednesday, freeing 51 Arab prisoners and returning the bodies of nine guerrillas to Lebanon in a move to facilitate the release of the Western hostages.

"The release of the Lebanese prisoners is the first step. Efforts to settle the hostage issue could now proceed," Mr. Musawi added.

The release coincided with a visit to Tehran, the Iranian capital, by U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar who was asked in August by the hostage holding faction Islamic Jihad to mediate a swap of the Western hostages for Arabs held by Israel.

The Communist-run Voice of the People Radio quoted unnamed sources as saying Mr. Perez de Cuellar "has met in Tehran with a representative of the hostage holders."

"This representative asked Mr. Perez de Cuellar to work for a comprehensive swap and avoid piecemeal solutions preferred by Israel," the broadcast said.

The development coincided with the return to Israel early Friday of an exiled Palestinian and the body of an Israeli soldier who has been missing in Lebanon since 1983.

The Israeli Boeing 707, which landed at an air force base next to Ben-Gurion international airport, brought the remains of Samir Assad. Also aboard was Palestinian activist Ali Abu Hilal, expelled from his West Bank home in 1986 because of activities in the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP). The exchange of the body held

Palestinian home after nearly six years of exile

by the DFLP for allowing the exiled Palestinian to return also could be a step inducing Israel to free more of the estimated 300 prisoners held by it and a proxy militia in Lebanon.

Lebanese minister Abdulla Al Amin, who is close to Syria, said Thursday: "There is definitely a positive atmosphere about the issue and there are hush-hush backstage efforts being exerted."

Expectations for a hostage release coincided with a message from Islamic Jihad in Beirut Thursday accompanied by a picture of Mr. Anderson, the American journalist who is the longest-held hostage.

While the Shiite faction's statement said Israel's release of 51 Arabs and return of nine bodies was "incomplete," it urged Mr. Perez de Cuellar to persist in trying to arrange a prisoner swap with Israel.

In Tehran, Mr. Perez de Cuellar said he believed Israel's freeing of prisoners could be the beginning of a solution to the hostage crisis.

But he said it was "not right to link too strongly the question of the missing Israelis with the release of the Westerners. There is not necessarily a link between the two things."

In its statement Thursday, Islamic Jihad said: "We are fully prepared to extend the required support for him (Mr. Perez de Cuellar) to reach the required comprehensive solution."

But it demanded more prisoner releases from Israel and freedom for some Lebanese jailed in Europe on hijacking and murder charges.

The 30-jim Islamic Jihad statement was given to the Lebanese newspaper Al Nahar and a Western news agency in Beirut. The picture of Mr. Anderson was the same as the one released by the group Aug. 6, which was the first to show a clean-shaven Anderson in profile in more than six years of captivity.

Mr. Anderson, 43, chief Middle East correspondent for the Associated Press, was kidnapped March 16, 1983.

Islamic Jihad's statement came about 14 hours after another group, the Revolutionary Justice Organisation, said the return of the 51 prisoners and nine bodies raised "happy ending" hopes for the Western hostages.

The group also announced that 77-year-old Mann was "alive and in good physical shape" more than two years after he disappeared in Beirut.

Besides Mr. Mann and Mr. Anderson, the other missing Westerners are four Americans, two Britons, two Germans and an Italian.

Outcry in Egypt over parliament drug scandal

CAIRO (R) — Official files implicating nine members of parliament in drug-trafficking have caused a public outcry and put Egypt's politicians on the defensive.

Parliament's Committee for Constitutional and Legal Affairs decided this week against expelling the nine — all from the ruling National Democratic Party (NDP) — after studying Interior Ministry files.

But in a move that would allow prosecutors to press charges, it stripped parliamentary immunity from one deputy who was a hero of the 1973 war.

The affair has prompted widespread criticism of the NDP-dominated parliament. Political analysts said they believed the other eight members, dubbed "the druggies" by the local press,

had escaped on a technicality. A state-owned newspaper published a cartoon showing a mother weeping as an anti-narcotics officer took her son away. "You should be happy," a bystander assures her. "Your son has a bright future as a respected member of parliament."

Most of the allegations against the nine date back years and committee said it could only expel members for misdemeanours committed since they were elected.

"This is a mistake, they (the NDP) should investigate members before they nominating them," former Parliament Speaker Sufi Abu Taleb told Reuters.

"Many other members are very unhappy with their behaviour. But these doubts are not a legal proof," added Mr. Abu Taleb.

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Conference calls for pan-Arab solutions to safeguard the environment

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan delegation to the Arab Conference on Environment and Development in Cairo submitted a working paper suggesting the enactment of a pan-Arab law on the protection of the environment in the Arab World, according to Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Salim Al Zoubi.

The minister, who led the delegation to the Cairo meetings, suggested that a pan-Arab ministerial conference be held to decide on this important step.

Mr. Zoubi said that protection of the environment should be of interest to all Arabs since no individual Arab state can implement a successful policy on its own without cooperation from neighbouring states.

The minister said that the conference called on Arab states to exchange expertise in environment-related affairs, on means of preventing industrial pollution and ways to fight off contamination of the environment.

Second stage of insecticide spraying in Jordan Valley region begins

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Agriculture is now carrying the second part of a campaign to rid the Jordan Valley region of insects, a programme conducted in cooperation with the Royal Jordanian Air Force, the Jordan Valley Farmers Association and the Civil Defence Department (CDD).

The ministry has just announced the completion of the first stage of the campaign, conducted over the past five days, during which Air Force planes were used to spray insecticides over a large area stretching from Al Arida to areas close to the Dead Sea.

Areas sprayed in the first part of the campaign included Simele, Rameh, Kafraim, Wadi Shueib and south Shuneh, according to Dr. Hanif Haddadin, director for Plant Protection at the Ministry of Agriculture.

The second stage will continue

It added that the ministers pledged their countries will work collectively to ensure the protection of wildlife, and water resources and forest lands.

They also underlined the importance of scientific research programmes and training of personnel in means of protecting the environment and the use of modern technology to reach that goal.

The ministers passed recommendations designed to provide protection to water resources, the development of the badia regions of the Arab World and fighting desertification.

They called on Arab countries to step up their cooperation with world organisations dealing with the protection of the environment and urged Arab governments to allocate funds to help finance projects that safeguard the environment.

The final statement urged Arab governments to enact legislation that would give impetus to the general trend of protecting the environment at all levels.

for the next 10 days involving ground spraying equipment and teams of ministry technicians, said Dr. Haddadin in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

The area to be covered in the campaign, according to the ministry, is estimated at 100,000 dunums and the cost could reach up to JD 150,000.

Describing the outcome of the first stage of the campaign as excellent, Dr. Haddadin said that it would not be complete without the second part and without cooperation on the part of the local community and farmers. He said that farmers should collect and dispose of garbage and other waste, prevent any piling of dung in poultry or sheep enclosures and abide by ministry instructions about disposal measures.

The agreement was signed by JCO Director General Jamal Al Bedour and Jordan Valley Farmers Association Chairman Talal Ghazzawi.

Seminar discusses various approaches to teaching

By Ida Wahbeh, Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The British Council, in cooperation with the Bishop School, Thursday hosted a seminar for teachers of English from 12 private schools in the Kingdom.

The three-day seminar, the first of its kind in Jordan, aims at bringing in teachers from various schools in the Kingdom and creating an atmosphere propitious for exchanging practical ideas on methods of teaching English, comparing difficulties encountered in the process and ways to overcome them and keeping the educators informed about the latest developments in teaching.

The first day of the seminar drew 72 teachers from private schools. Discussions are organised in sessions interrupted by long recesses "to give the teachers the chance to interact, exchange ideas." The attendees have the choice to take part in any of the discussions on the topics prepared and presented by teachers with experience in the field.

The "seed" of the seminar, says Larry Epp, head of the English Department at the Bishop School, was a survey of the English programme and ways to effectively use it conducted by his school, which ended up by bringing in a representative of Macmillan Publishers to exchange expertise with the school's teachers.

"We thought other teachers should benefit too so we brought other speakers in to help. We did not restrict the things to ourselves," he said.

Sarah Philpot, an educational consultant at Macmillan, came to guide the teachers on ways of using the Macmillan series "Rainbow." Her interest lies in the communicative approach to teaching and its application to the coming stage of the cultural

young children who are taught to read.

According to Ms. Philpot, there should be a genuine reason for children to read and the teachers should find the best way of creating this motivation. Faced with situations created by the teacher beforehand (like presenting a picture), children become creative, Ms. Philpot says.

"You elicit a lot of vocabulary before you start," she said. "It is a test before teaching, seeing how much the children know. Then you create the real reason for them to read."

Collaborative writing was presented by Jill Bamforth, who teaches at the Baccalaureate School. The approach, very much like the one in the real classroom, presented an active, animated, dynamic method of interaction that eventually leads to cooperation in writing (rewriting) a text and building English communication skills.

Starting from an excerpt — a small text — the pupils are asked to jot down as many individual words as they can possible remember and then, through group work, they should recreate the original text.

The drill uses lots of editing skills and interaction while, at the same time, it exercises a grammatical function, reinforces knowledge, and develops the vocabulary.

Chris Nelson, direct teaching manager at the British Council, had an interesting opinion about the use (or non use) of the syllabus in the process of teaching. The discussions gravitated around the current trends in teaching English.

Mr. Nelson believes that language is not acquired through syllabus, which is "overated" in teaching. He believes in creating a language-rich environment and training the language learners to get the most of it.

Arab writers and authors call for unity

AMMAN (Petra) — The General Federation of Arab Writers and Authors opened a meeting in Amman Friday with the participation of eight Arab countries in addition to Jordan.

The two-day meeting, which is hosted by the Arab Jordanian Writers Federation (JWF) is to review several working papers dealing with general Arab issues and the role of Arab writers in dealing with the requirements of the coming stage at the cultural

Committee organising Arab Child Day celebrations

AMMAN (Petra) — A committee entrusted with preparing for the Kingdom's celebrations of the Arab Child Day held a meeting Wednesday at the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) under the chairmanship of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

Participants heard Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Raef Nijem outline various problems and difficulties encountered by the ministry in investments and development of Islamic endowment property.

The committee discussed the activities and the events which will be held during the week-long celebrations of the occasion. The celebrations are scheduled to start on Oct. 7.

The celebrations will include seminars which will be held in the Kingdom's various governorates. Children will take part in the seminars and will discuss issues related to childhood.

The events will include holding a main seminar on the International Charter for Children Rights which has been issued by the International Children's Summit. The seminar will be organised by the NHF and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

The National League for Children's Education will also organise a seminar in Amman under the title "Children's Programmes in Radio and Television."

Visit to refugee camp full of surprises for German minister

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — A visiting German minister who wanted to gain first-hand knowledge of the conditions of returnees from Kuwait got more than he apparently bargained for when he visited the Beqaa Refugee Camp outside Amman Thursday and came face to face with the fears and anxiety of ex-residents of Kuwait, according to an official eyewitness who works at the Department of Palestinian Affairs.

Apparently, the request of Carl Dieter Spranger, the minister, to meet some of the returnees had come to the concerned authorities on the 11th hour. Officials scrambled at the last minute to locate ex-Kuwaiti families in the Beqaa Camp.

They located one family with whom Mr. Dieter, who was accompanied by an official 13-member delegation and at least 20 journalists in addition to security men, conversed for some time.

"The surprise was total and many of the German delegation — who did not understand Arabic — did not have the least idea of what the women inside were saying," he said. "It took sometime before the security men forced their way into the house to find out what was wrong. Other women also went in and sought to calm the family."

Finally, the German delegation was invited in and the minister chatted with the family through an interpreter for some time. He was told of how life was like for Jordanian and Palestinians in Kuwait and how the Kuwaitis were mistreating them, how many of them were still in detention, how the Kuwaitis used to humiliate the expatriates and how families living in the emirate for decades were expelled.

But what was wrong with the family in the first place that prompted the baffling scenario outside the house?

"Again there was a scramble," he said. "It is not that there is any scarcity of returnees from Kuwait in Beqaa, but it is difficult to locate them at short notice."

"Finally, residents directed officials to another house where a returnee family was living, but no-one had the hindsight to inform the family that the minister would be visiting them," he said.

Mr. Dieter and his entourage

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Islamic investments and other projects reviewed by official

AMMAN (Petra) — Matters related to the upkeep of Mosques and their maintenance as well as development of lands owned by the Islamic endowment were reviewed at a meeting held at the King Abdullah Mosque under the chairmanship of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

Participants heard Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Raef Nijem outline various problems and difficulties encountered by the ministry in investments and development of Islamic endowment property.

There are enormous opportunities to lease, develop or invest in Islamic endowment land, a process badly needed now to ensure continued financial returns for the ministry's other projects, Mr. Nijem said.

Addressing the meeting, Prince Hassan underlined the need for feasibility studies to be made beforehand and on the effects such projects can leave on society to be considered.

The Crown Prince instilled the need for the Islamic institutes and sharia schools to coordinate their programmes with those of the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs as well as the ministries of Education, Social Development and Youth in matters related to laying the infrastructure for development of Islamic endowment land.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan (centre) addresses meeting reviewing the state of mosques

in the Kingdom and Islamic investments (Petra photo).

Prince Hassan said that interaction between the local community and the mosque preachers was a necessity and field tours by Awqaf officials to various communities to learn about problems was of vital importance.

Various issues related to Islamic endowment and obstacles in the path of developing endowment land were discussed, with the heads of various government departments presenting their views about them.

According to Ministry of Awqaf's Secretary General Ahmad Hilayel, the meeting was part of a series of discussions to review obstacles and difficulties facing the ministry's operations and activities.

Ministry to implement plan designed to alleviate Jordan's unemployment

By Maha Addasi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A master plan set up by the Ministry of Labour and estimated to cost \$150 million will be implemented in order to alleviate the unemployment problem in the Kingdom, according to government officials.

"Someone from inside peaked out through the window and then suddenly women from inside the house started screaming, 'we have lost our man' and 'he has been killed by the Kuwaitis,'" he said.

"Everyone was stunned and as the wailing reached a crescendo, the crowd swelled with neighbours running to the scene to find out what was happening."

Neither the German delegation nor their interpreter could make out what had triggered the sudden screaming and wailing, according to the eyewitness.

They located one family with whom Mr. Dieter, who was accompanied by an official 13-member delegation and at least 20 journalists in addition to security men, conversed for some time.

"The surprise was total and many of the German delegation — who did not understand Arabic — did not have the least idea of what the women inside were saying," he said. "It took sometime before the security men forced their way into the house to find out what was wrong. Other women also went in and sought to calm the family."

Finally, the German delegation was invited in and the minister chatted with the family through an interpreter for some time. He was told of how life was like for Jordanian and Palestinians in Kuwait and how the Kuwaitis were mistreating them, how many of them were still in detention, how the Kuwaitis used to humiliate the expatriates and how families living in the emirate for decades were expelled.

But what was wrong with the family in the first place that prompted the baffling scenario outside the house?

"The residents of the house were the womenfolk of a Palestinian family which returned from Kuwait. The head of the family is still in Kuwait, possibly under detention," the official said. "When the family saw the crowd outside their home in Beqaa, they thought the people gathered were there to inform the family of the man's death in Kuwait."

Correction

Due to a reporting error, an article on page 3 of the Thursday-Friday edition of the Jordan Times incorrectly identified members of a group planning an exhibition in the United States as belonging to Peace Now! The organisers of the exhibit are members of the Gulf Peace Team. The Jordan Times regrets the error.

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Right veto for a change

OF COURSE Israel is stunned by the warning of U.S. President George Bush that he would veto any congressional decision to award it the controversial \$10 billion loan guarantee. The Jewish state has become accustomed to being Washington's spoiled child by getting all it wants from the U.S., the day it wants it, simply by pulling some strings in the seats of power and mobilising its agents and lobbyists in that country in support of its demands. But when the U.S. president decides to put an end to Israel's gory logic and crude exploitation of Zionist pressure groups in a manner clearly detrimental to the overall American interests, the Israeli ruling government goes berserk and starts "crying wolf."

What is so disturbing about this latest Israeli attempt to manipulate Washington's foreign policy and make it serve its own national objectives is that it is based on the obviously false premise that the American people owe it to Israel to keep funding it with money and credit under one guise or another and that it is Israel's legitimate right to demand and obtain financial, economic, military and political aid all the time. This arrogant attitude is what is finally driving home in the U.S. the message that Israel must learn some discipline before Israeli audacity wrecks for ever all and every existing chance for peace in the Middle East.

The second objectionable feature about the Israeli insistence to go over the U.S. president's head and seek authorisation for the loan guarantee in question from the U.S. Congress is that this political behaviour constitutes a major and blunt challenge to President Bush personally and contradicts his policies and their objectives in this region.

The Israeli prime minister and his followers inside and outside his country are obviously counting on their many friends on Capitol Hill and in the ability of the Jewish lobbyists to sway public opinion in the U.S. in their favour, as they have done so many times in the past. Obviously President Bush has also done his homework this time and is solidly banking on his people to win the stand-off on the loan guarantee issue. It is therefore more than comforting that this latent and brewing American-Israeli conflict of interests has come to a head at last. Any formula or compromise short of vindicating the Bush administration in its show-down with Israel in general and Shamir's government in particular would simply play into the hands of Israeli apologists. It is thus reassuring that the U.S. president has flatly ruled out any compromise solution entailing an agreement to accord the requested credit guarantee at the end of the four months. It would simply defeat the purpose to commit the U.S. beforehand on the loan guarantee and makes a mockery of Mr. Bush's attempt to rein in Israel and its current leadership. The fact that the Israeli government has already incorporated part of the \$10 billion credit into its new budget even before it is cleared by Washington proves beyond a shadow of doubt that Tel Aviv takes Washington for granted and now is the time to put an end to this irresponsible behaviour.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein's address to the European Parliament was a reminder to the world community to shoulder its responsibility towards alleviating the suffering and relieving the plight of the expatriates forced out of Kuwait, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily. The paper said that the King's address was a brave message to the world and those believing in peace, justice and democracy and adhering to principled stands. In his address, the King put all the facts before the European parliamentarians, outlining Jordan's honest and courageous stand, its objective dealing with questions related to the Middle East problems and its continuous quest for peace based on justice, the paper said. This was a brave call to the world to come to the aid of Jordan, which is burdened with new responsibilities, and the Palestinian people, who are still the victims of injustice due to the lack of implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 that can ensure Palestinian people's rights in their own homeland, the paper continued. The King's brave speech, said the paper, was a call to the world community to give momentum to the peace process so that harmony and security can replace desperation and violence in the Middle East. The King, added the paper, has taken a brave stand in calling for the establishment of peace and it remains for the Europeans to respond favourably and contribute to the achievement of that objective.

GENERAL statements by the Arab League Secretary General Ismail Abdul Majid about re-establishing solidarity among Arab countries, without taking steps towards achieving that goal, came under fire from a columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily. We have heard statements by the Arab League secretary general stressing the need for solidarity, but the statements failed to point to the real problems and to the Arab states responsible for the present divisions in the Arab World, said Bader Abdul Haq. Countries that had orchestrated the U.S.-led alliance's aggression against Iraq should take steps to erase the hatred that is now deep-rooted among the Arabs, and the Arab League should take practical steps towards ending divisions so that the way can be open to solidarity, the writer continued. He said it is feared that Mr. Abdul Majid's statements are not more than mere words phrased for him by the United States and its allies which seek to dominate the Arab region through the Arab League. It is feared that Mr. Abdul Majid is seeking a kind of solidarity that would only serve Washington's interests and not those that existed in the Arab World before the Gulf crisis, the writer added. We have heard a great deal about the Arab League and its statements, said Abdul Haq, but the Arab masses have so far failed to see practical steps that can really help re-establish solidarity among Arab countries.

'Peace should be between peoples not states'

New world order requires new thinking

Following is the text of an address by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan entitled "The Search for Peace" to the annual conference of the Department of Public Information for NGOs—"Peace, Justice and Development—ingredients for an emerging new world order"—in New York. It was delivered via satellite.

The concept of an emerging world order brings to my mind the Grand Old Duke of York, who discovered that if you are halfway between two places, you are nowhere. My intention is not to start my address to you today on a pessimistic or critical note. At the risk of apparent immodesty, I cannot help but refer to the statement of Woodrow Wilson quoted in my book "Search for Peace," which was published in 1984. In his address to the United States Senate on Jan. 22, 1917, he said "There must be, not a balance of power, but a community of power, not organised rivalries but an organised peace."

That book, as its title suggests, was a modest attempt to tell how we can bring about, to the Middle East, the peace that the whole world needs. Of course the political will for peace was not mustered, and the successive missed opportunities and tragedies in the Middle East during the eighties culminated in the recent Gulf crisis.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Some analysts consider that the breakdown of strategic confrontation between the superpowers is moving the world towards a period of recurring crises with a supraregional rather than a purely regional character. The forty-year-old cold war was not only wasteful in armaments and confrontation. The greater loss is perhaps in the form of those contradictions of the cold war that have been internalised in all aspects of international relations. There are those who consider that the U.N. may be its own worst enemy in respect of what have been termed as the cult of impressiveness and high-sounding language. The relevance of such concepts as security and development to their social and human context has to be reconsidered in line with the changed world reali-

ties, an intellectual bridgehead is desperately needed to resolve the dichotomy between the international political and economic frameworks. This applies equally between North and South as well as in the North and South.

Honoured delegates,

In our search for peace it is vitally important to bear in mind that it is impossible to rabon justice. The notion that truth cannot be forged out in careful rations might generate a fear among decision makers that the process may go too far and create an avalanche. This in its turn may produce a wish to go nowhere at all or even to retreat.

In approaching the Middle East peace process, we are aware of the need to strike a delicate balance between respect for the normative contents of relevant international law norms and Security Council resolutions on the one hand, and the need for flexibility and ingenuity to ensure that negotiations are meaningful, on the other.

In determining the most appropriate route for the search for peace, it is essential to consider the probable humanitarian, social and political character of the emerging world order. If peace is to be meaningful and durable, then it has to be among people and not only between governments and states.

In Jordan we have been engaged during the eighties in such an approach of exploring the humanitarian route map. I participated in the work of the Independent Commission on International Humanitarian Issues which recognised "that progress in removing the causes of human suffering is a step-by-step proposition. It is not just the quality of life but life itself, that is threatened. Modern man is at peace neither with himself nor with his environment." We are faced with the dual challenge of man against man and man against nature.

The independent commission, a lobby for the powerless, dealt with a wide range of issues. The

major themes were "Humanitarian norms, particularly those pertaining to modern wars and conflicts; disasters: natural and man made such as famine; vulnerable groups such as refugees and indigenous people and the degradation of the environment: deforestation and desertification." The final report of the commission offered a new humanitarian outlook and applicable alternatives. It urged that action ought to be taken prior to disasters rather than wait and react in the aftermath. It stressed that economic growth, national security and other grandiose schemes that are often applauded and sought after, are of no value if they do not bring about a greater welfare for the concerned people. They are of value if and when they are of benefit to the well-being of the public at large.

In short, our efforts were directed towards a multilateral approach to world interdependence through evolving a humanitarian order. Simultaneously with this effort, a three-stream interreligious dialogue has been conducted with the Vatican, in the United Kingdom and the Orthodox Centre of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Geneva. The dialogue has emphasised and built upon common aspects and shared values and concerns for the three monotheistic faiths.

However at this stage, we feel the urgency to reinforce our search for peace with a state-to-state effort and have thus called for a Helsinki-type approach of a CSCME (a Conference for Security and Cooperation in the Middle East).

Ladies and Gentlemen,

A broadly defined security concept means tackling the root causes of conflict. The three dimensions of security (military, political, economic) must be explicitly recognised. They interact dynamically with people, resources—environment and cultural identity in every part of our globe, an effective search for peace requires a careful examination

of all the relevant route maps. We have in Jordan evolved our thinking in this regard along the form of a regional matrix. This can help identify priorities in a process for security and cooperation in the region. A breakthrough in resolving the Palestinian-Israeli conflict can pave the way for a conference for security and cooperation in the Middle East (CSCME). We look at this as a process rather than a one time event.

There are some who consider that the problems of the Middle East are too daunting to allow for such a process of security and cooperation as the CSCME. But it ought to be stressed that if there is a will there is a way. The challenges facing political union in Europe are quite formidable. But this has not deterred the community from pursuing that aim including the controversial objective of a European defence policy. We all saw how swiftly the recent Gulf war transformed the southern flank of NATO into its

monolithic front.

In essence, many regions of the world face the challenge of reconciling security to the often conflicting perceptions and aspirations of different peoples. Within that context, it has been rightly observed that the primary focus of security should be people and not states, nor the elite, the affluent or the powerful.

In talking about people, I firmly believe in the trilateral approach based on democracy/society/prosperity for our region.

The politics and economics of security have to be replaced by the political economy of peace and progress. Extremism and radicalism should be tackled by democratisation and freedom of expression. Imaginative approaches to arms control can promote security while at the same time diverting hundreds of billions of dollars towards socio-economic development.

A conference on security and cooperation in the Middle East (CSCME) can draw on the moral weight of the Helsinki process in

Europe. I have on more than one occasion emphasised that the "Helsinki 34" are integrally inter-linked to the Middle East through the triangle of energy, armaments and debt. The "Helsinki 34" are the main consumers of Middle East oil, its main suppliers of arms and its main creditors. It is no exaggeration to say that oil revenues in the Middle East have literally fuelled the arms race, which in its turn has been largely behind the external debt crisis faced by many countries in the region. Any effective consideration of arms control must therefore by necessity focus on the issues of energy and indebtedness.

For example, the recent proposal from Brussels for a European energy charter

provides useful guidelines for tackling constructively the issue of energy in the Middle East. This proposed charter outlines three objectives for the European energy sector including Eastern Europe:

Firstly, security of supply; secondly, safeguarding the environment and thirdly efficiency of production.

If these principles were applied in respect of Middle East energy, then a great contribution to peace and stability will be made.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

"Your three-day gathering, according to the conference information," is an attempt to address how recent geo-political events present new opportunities for enhancing the role of the United Nations in the maintenance of international peace and security.

The politics and economics of

security have to be replaced by the political economy of peace and progress.

Extremism and radicalism should be tackled by democratisation and freedom of expression.

Imaginative approaches to arms control can

provide security while at the same time diverting hundreds of billions of dollars towards socio-economic development.

A conference on security and cooperation in the Middle East (CSCME) can draw on the moral weight of the Helsinki process in

Thank you.

The week in print

U.S., Europe and the Arabs: How will the scales tip?

HIS Majesty King Hussein's major address to the European Parliament about the situation in the Middle East, the prospects of the peace process, Jordanian-Egyptian relations in the wake of the publication of the Jordanian White Paper on the Gulf crisis and domestic affairs were discussed at length by the local media in the past week.

In his address the King presented all facts before the Europeans, urging them to come to the help of the people of Middle East and establish peace, said Sawt Al Shaab in an editorial. We need the European Community to actively participate in establishing stability and security in our region and we need its help to end the Arab-Israeli conflict on the basis of international legitimacy, said the paper.

A columnist in Al Dustour expressed surprise at the Arab countries' welcome of the U.S. administration's delay for 120 days only, in offering guarantees to Israel to obtain loans to build settlements.

Taher Al Adwan said that the Israelis are going ahead with their plans anyway and are certain of eventual approval by the U.S. administration of the required guarantees for a \$10 billion loan to be obtained from world banks.

Israel is in a race against time to build thousands of homes for the Soviet Jewish and other immigrants while the Arab city of Jerusalem is being Judaised as the Arabs continue to count on Israel's ally, the U.S., to bring them justice and restore the Palestinians' rights, the writer said.

A columnist in Al Dustour said that the apparent dispute between Israel and the U.S. administration over the loan guarantees is just a show.

Munes Al Razzaz said that the Israelis are quite certain that the guarantees will be secured thanks to their formidable lobby in the U.S. Congress and therefore, there is no need for the Arabs to build castles in the air and imagine that the two allies are in conflict.

He said the delay in giving the guarantees does not mean that the U.S. plans to ignore them.

A great columnist in Sawt Al Shaab is pessimistic about the prospects of peace.

Abdul Haif Abu Qaoud said that all indications point to the fact that the U.S. administration is going ahead with plans to impose on the Arabs a political settlement as directed by the Arab World.

The writer said that the Arabs are still in disarray on the eve of the proposed conference while Israeli leaders continue to show

communism and the disarray in the ranks of the Arab countries have all paved the way for the U.S.-Israeli alliance to impose the settlement.

Several columnists discussed the ongoing hostile campaign in the Egyptian media against Jordan for publishing the White Paper that throws light on the facts surrounding the Gulf crisis.

Fahd Al Fanek said in Al Ra'i that the White Paper is now sought by all Arab people because it presents facts that are not liked by the Egyptian regime.

The White Paper presents facts that preceded the Gulf war thus exposing the Egyptian regime and other Arabs who chose to side with the U.S.-Western alliance, said the writer.

He said Egypt, after President Nasser, has played two shameful roles: first by stabbing the Palestinians in the back through their Camp David accords with Israel and second when Cairo was instrumental in launching the U.S.-led aggression against Iraq.

By publishing the White Paper Jordan has placed itself, and its nationals living in Cairo, on the Egyptian blacklist, said Taher Al Adwan in Al Dustour.

The Egyptians are taking vengeance on the Jordanian students and Palestinian citizens in retaliation for the publication of the White Paper which obviously exposes the shameful role played by Egypt during the Gulf crisis said the writer.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily criticised the Arab League which has recently held its 96th meeting in Cairo.

Mahmoud Rimawi said that topics of real importance to the Arab World, like the immigration of Jews to Palestine, the peace process initiated by the U.S., arrangements in the Gulf, where the Americans are establishing their presence, and the eviction of thousands of Jordanians and Palestinians from Kuwait, were not among the subjects on the agenda.

The writer questioned the wisdom behind holding such meetings if they can not discuss topics of vital importance to the Arab World.

COLUMNIST Munes Al Razzaz said in Al Dustour that one should not be surprised by Israel's actions because the Arabs

Saudi Arabia responding cautiously to Iranian overtures

By Marian Isa

Reuter

MANAMA — Saudi Arabia is responding cautiously to Iranian overtures as the two Muslim rivals work on a post-Gulf relationship to end years of mutual distrust.

Diplomats in the region say revolutionary Iran and the conservative Arab monarchy have both given top priority to their budding friendship — a result of Tehran's neutral stand during the Gulf war.

Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani has accepted an invitation to visit Saudi Arabia, just five months after the two states ended a three-year break in relations.

No date has been set but Mr. Rafsanjani will be the first Iranian head of state to visit Riyadh since the Islamic Revolution brought Shiite fundamentalists to power in 1979.

Diplomats said the visit was a rare sign of goodwill between Saudi Arabia and Iran, the spiritual leaders respectively of Islam's two main branches — Sunnis and Shiites.

But they said it would take time before Saudi Arabia, which supported Iraq during its eight-year war with Iran, could overcome its traditional fears of Shiite fundamentalism.

"It is a probing relationship," one senior Arab diplomat in the kingdom said.

The Gulf crisis has created a new theatre where new things can be tested but any wrong move could create problems in the future. The Saudis are being very cautious," he told Reuters.

"The relationship is clearly improved but there is still a lot of mutual suspicion and distrust — it will take time before this changes. Saudi Arabia is still leery of Iranian intentions," another Riyadh-based diplomat said.

The main obstacle was religious differences between Sunnis and Shiites dating back centuries, the diplomats said.

Saudi Arabia is the birthplace of Islam and home to Islam's two holy cities, Mecca and Medina. The two countries cut ties soon

Ensour hails outcome of Cairo talks

(Continued from page 1)

the Soviet Union, to put an end to the immigration to the occupied Arab territories. The council also adopted another decision rejecting and condemning the Israeli occupation of Syria's Golan Heights.

The council called for studying the situation of the Iraqi people and for making every possible effort to provide the basic needs of the Iraqi people and to end their suffering.

Arab League Secretary General Esmat Abdul Meguid said the council also reviewed other issues of common interests to the Arab Nation, including the Lebanese problem. The council, he said, voiced support for Lebanon's efforts, peace and reconciliation.

On the issue of Kuwaiti captives in Iraq, the council requested the league's secretariat to

assist in finding an inter-Arab solution to this problem.

On the Somali question, the council recommended that efforts be pursued to restore security and stability to that country. It further called for providing food and medicine to Somalia to help it through its current crisis.

At a press conference after the meeting, Dr. Abdul Meguid said the council stressed the importance of forging closer cooperation with Africa, with a view to developing Arab-African cooperation into a model for cooperation between countries of the South.

On proposed amendments to the Arab League Charter, Dr. Abdul Meguid said that Libya and Qatar had joined a seven-member committee entrusted with discussing the amendments to the charter and to establish a higher Arab court of justice.

Abed Rabbo sets up own group

(Continued from page 1)

intellectual pluralism as our organisational basic," Mr. Abed Rabbo said, adding that Mr. Hawatmeh's clinging to the Marxist thinking was a major difference between the two.

He explained that his breakaway group considers itself "a nationalist, democratic and progressive for all the sons and daughters of Palestine, regardless of their social and religious trends. And this does not conflict with our secular trends."

Mr. Abed Rabbo, however, held out an olive branch to his rival and called for a face-to-face dialogue to resolve the pending differences in a "democratic and civilised" manner. "We are completely willing to resolve the differences based on democratic and civilised means by sitting together face to face to end existing

differences," Mr. Abed Rabbo said. He noted that other Palestinian parties and prominent personalities, including Mr. Arafat and Dr. Habash, had tried in vain to mediate the rift.

"Each of us has his role and it is not our business at all to continue our differences with our brother Mayef's group or any other national Palestinian parties. We believe that this is a waste of our national efforts and capabilities," Mr. Abed Rabbo said.

The Amman DFLP conference, where a parallel conference took place in the occupied territories, resulted in political resolutions concerning the Palestine question that conform with the official PLO position. The conference resolutions, Mr. Abed Rabbo said, will be submitted to the PNC session in Algiers on Sept. 23.

Arab coordination talks deferred

(Continued from page 1)

Israel's withdrawal from the occupied territories and the recognition of the Palestinian people's right to independent statehood.

"We believe that we all agree that there is a need to secure international guarantees" before the peace conference starts, Mr. Abed Rabbo noted.

Egypt, which had initial reservations over the proposal, agreed to attend the Arab meeting in talks with senior PLO officials earlier this month and reaffirmed its position to the Jordanian foreign minister, Abdulla Ensour, who met with President Hosni Mubarak and Foreign Minister Amr Mussa in Cairo last week.

But, "Syria's position is that while it is willing to participate in the crucial meeting, it will be premature to engage in inter-Arab exercises before Israel announces its acceptance or non-acceptance of the peace conference," an informed source told the Jordan Times.

Syrian leaders, in talks with other Arab and Palestinian leaders, are pointing out that "a declaration of the Palestinian position on representation and Israeli acceptance of the Palestinian representation are crucial to convening the peace conference," the source said.

Apparently, the Syrian leadership, which remains at odds with the PLO leadership under Chairman Yasser Arafat, does not want to engage in reconciliation contacts with the PLO prior to firmly establishing that the peace conference is going to take place.

The declaration of the Palestinian position is expected at the PNC meeting scheduled to be

convened in Algiers on Sept. 23, and Israeli acceptance to attend the peace conference is seen to hinge on whether the PLO agrees to the Jewish state's demand that only non-PLO Palestinians and no Arab East Jerusalem Palestinians attend the parley as negotiators.

Amman and Cairo are the suggested venues for the Arab coordination talks, other sources told the Jordan Times.

"Egypt had been expressing reservations over the issue, but last week's contacts have cleared the way for the meeting," said one source, noting that President Mubarak and Chairman Arafat met in Libya two weeks ago and senior PLO official Farouk Qadoumi held talks with Foreign Minister Musa in Cairo last week.

None of the sources, who spoke to the Jordan Times on condition of anonymity, could definitely affirm the level of representation at the planned gathering in Cairo, but most expected foreign ministers of Jordan, Egypt, Syria and Lebanon as well as Mr. Qadoumi, head of the PLO Political Department, would attend.

Dr. Ensour, in remarks after meeting Mr. Mubarak and Mr. Musa in Cairo Wednesday on the fringes of an Arab League Council session, said that the president "reaffirmed the importance of conducting speedy negotiations among Arab experts and ministers so that a collective Arab stand can be adopted" before the October peace conference.

The Arab League Council also called for a meeting of the Arab parties involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Mr. Qadoumi was quoted as saying after his talks with Mr. Musa: "We can say that coordination has been achieved."

Scientists still learning from Mt. Pinatubo

By Jon Miller

CLARK AIR BASE, THE PHILIPPINES — Mt. Pinatubo has simmered down, but the mood inside the volcano-monitoring station is electric: 18km from the mountain's crater, seismometers jingle, computers purr, telephones ring and videotapes flicker. Tom Casadevall, in shorts, a baseball cap and T-shirt, dashes from person to person, asking questions, clapping his hands, speaking words of encouragement.

The reason for the excitement? Scientific ground is being broken. And when volcanologists break ground, that's good news for the millions of people worldwide who live around the corner from some of nature's most terrifying neighbours. "In terms of impact on a human population, this volcano is clearly, by far, the major event of modern times," says Casadevall, a 44-year-old gas emissions expert with the United States Geological Survey (USGS) Volcano Hazards programme. "It's also the largest eruption we've ever observed with instruments. It has supported a lot of what we've learned at other volcanoes, and it has filled in some important gaps."

Never before has so much data been gathered on such a large volcano. Thanks in part to powerful new computer technology, the mountain, shrouded day and night in mist and ash, has been a living, bubbling, steaming laboratory for scientists wanting to learn more about how volcanoes work — and how to help save thousands of lives in the process. Mt. Pinatubo, which erupted repeatedly from April to July, was the fourth largest volcanic event of the century, spewing some four to six million cubic metres of ash and stone onto the heavily populated region around its base. The physical and economic damage has been incalculable. Ashfall and mudflows have completely transformed the landscape, wiping out farms and businesses, destroying roads and bridges, crippling a huge American air base, and displacing thousands of tribal people who had lived for centuries on the mountain's forested slopes.

But the relatively small cost in human lives represents a tremendous victory for the Philippines geologists and civil defense personnel, who led evacuation efforts, and for American volcanologists who arrived in April with sophisticated equipment and extensive international experience. The death toll from the eruption is still under 500; compare that with the 25,000 who died in mudflows caused by the smaller eruption of Nevada del Ruiz in the Colombian Andes in 1985.

"Mt. Pinatubo was a dramatic success story," says Mr. Casadevall, an affable and energetic man who has worked on volcanoes in half a dozen countries. "The number of buildings that collapsed alone should have caused a greater number of fatalities than we actually had. People tend to cluster indoors during an ashfall. The same goes with the mudflows. But people were informed, and knew what to get out."

Mr. Casadevall, who came at the invitation of the Philippines government, says the key to the success at Pinatubo was twofold: first, scientists understand better than ever what is happening kilometres beneath the surface of the earth, and second, they have learned to communicate that understanding to the population at large. The second point is in many ways the most important. When Nevada del Ruiz erupted, volcanologists had a fairly good idea of what was in store. They had drawn up maps showing where mudflows were likely to go, and they had outlined the other hazards. Their warnings were sent to the local government, and even published in the newspaper. But the people in the area weren't convinced. Almost

all the fatalities occurred in mudflows that had been anticipated by the geologists.

Mt. Pinatubo has been a shot in the arm for the tight-knit international volcanology community. Geologists fear nothing more than a repeat of the Nevada del Ruiz fiasco in a major population center. Mt. Vesuvius in Italy, Mt. Merapi in Indonesia, Mt. Fuji in Japan and Mt. Pichincha in Ecuador are all in extremely densely populated areas. All Mr. Casadevall says, are "time bombs." All, he hopes, will be less deadly because of the lessons learned in the past few months at Mt. Pinatubo.

Most of the fatalities from Mt. Pinatubo occurred during the ashfall caused by the single biggest eruption in mid-June. A number of people died after the eruption when volcanic materials and gas cascaded down the

mountainside, and more were killed in mudflows brought on by heavy rains. The death toll continues to mount as evacuees succumb to disease in overcrowded relocation centers. Ironically, more Americans die in overcrowded relocation centers. Ironically, more Americans were at risk from the eruption of Mt. Pinatubo than have ever been threatened by a volcanic eruption. All American volcanoes are in sparsely populated national parks or forests. But more than 25,000 Americans live on or around Clark Air Base and Subic Bay Naval Station, both of which were very much within Pinatubo's danger zone.

The proximity of the bases was a lucky break for the more than one million Filipinos in the area. Washington gave the USGS unprecedented support — from helicopters to radar facilities to

on-base housing. The American geologists brought expensive seismometers and other equipment. And, working closely with their Filipino counterparts, they got to test a set of a powerful new computer programmes that turned out to be ideally suited to developing countries like the Philippines.

"This is really the first eruption where we've relied so heavily on the personal computer," explains Mr. Casadevall. "If one of those computers had broken down, we could have found a replacement within an hour. Personal computers don't need air conditioning, they are rugged, they can be bought on the local market. And the software can literally be carried in a scientist's briefcase."

The USGS, which has access to huge main-frame computers at its monitoring sites in the United States, found that the "Willie Lee

System," designed for the personal computer by a USGS specialist, was extremely useful for processing the information transmitted by seismometers placed at strategic sites around the volcano.

Mr. Casadevall, who says he is

doing more coordination than science at the Pinatubo station, is particularly interested in aviation safety during volcanic eruptions.

He was an organizer and resource person at an emergency conference in July in Seattle that was attended by representatives of airlines, governments and affected industries from two dozen countries. He says the Philippines government should be

commended for its rapid and level-headed response to the ashfall that blanketed Manila on June 15. It was the first time a major international airport anywhere has had to deal with significant quantities of ash. Just a week after a typhoon deposited a thick layer of gray powder on the capital runway were clear and planes were in the air — an impressive feat, Mr. Casadevall says.

He notes that every volcano is different, and there is no way to predict exactly what will happen — or when — once a sleeping mountain wakes. But every well-observed eruption erases a little of the mystery. The next several months will be spent sifting through data, refining ways of classifying eruptions, of measuring mudflows, of processing seismic evidence. Perhaps more important, volcanologists from around the world, with a little more experience under their belts, will get together and swap stories about what went right and what went wrong. "We're trying to get a clear sense of just what happened," Mr. Casadevall says, early in what will be another 15-hour workday. "It's still an incredibly dynamic situation" — World News Link.

Shamir ignores Bush's threat

(Continued from page 1)

October.

Mr. Shamir praised the lobbying of pro-Israeli groups, whose last major battle with a U.S. president was their unsuccessful 1981 attempt to block the sale of AWACS surveillance aircraft to Saudi Arabia.

But this confrontation — with Israel openly calling for its supporters in Congress to ignore the wishes of a popular president — could develop into the most bitter U.S.-Israeli struggle since Washington opposed Israel's 1967 Suez invasion.

The right-wing Jerusalem Post, a solid supporter of Mr. Shamir, accused Mr. Bush of "extortion" by linking loan guarantees to Middle East peace.

Police Minister Romi Milo, a close ally of Mr. Shamir, said earlier pro-Israeli forces in Washington should be strengthened.

"We have to stand on this position, be very aggressive, explain our position well and if we do that I think we'll succeed," Mr. Milo told Israel Radio.

The U.S.-Israeli confrontation is certain to dominate talks when U.S. Secretary of State James Baker comes next week seeking Israeli and Palestinian agreement to the proposed peace talks.

The funds raised through the loan guarantees, already counted in Israel's 1992 budget, would go for unspecified government spending.

Palestinians, angered by U.S. aid to Israel, fear the loans would finance Mr. Shamir's drive to

tighten Israel's grip on the occupied territories by moving more Jews into the area.

Although Israel says it does not use U.S. aid in the occupied territories, it frees Israel to spend other funds there.

Mr. Shamir has vowed to continue settling Jews in the occupied territories and opposition Member of Parliament Dedi Zucker said this week the number would double by the end of 1992.

The right-wing Jerusalem Post, a solid supporter of Mr. Shamir, accused Mr. Bush of "extortion" by linking loan guarantees to Middle East peace.

However, opposition Member of Parliament Yossi Sarid called Israel's lobbying assault on Congress a "vulgar mistake," that could backfire into anti-Israeli feeling among Americans.

"Even if Israel wins, it will lose this war," Mr. Sarid told army radio.

"That is, there must be linkage between the realisation of immigration and the political issues that stand between us and the Arab states," he said. "This linkage is the grave thing."

No date set for peace parley

(Continued from page 1)

prospects for peace because these are indeed very divisive issues ... they are issues that we have said we think need to be resolved at the negotiating table and not before," Mr. Baker said.

"Mr. Baker refused to say whether Arab states had told Washington they would not attend a peace conference if the loan guarantee request was approved.

"What we're saying is we do not want to link the issue. We think it would operate against the

newspapers warned of growing conflict between Israel and the United States.

The Hebrew daily Hadashot called Mr. Bush's remarks "a declaration of war," and the mass circulation Yedioth Achronot said the Americans had "taken off their gloves."

Health Minister Ehud Olmert said he was "disappointed by the position" taken by Mr. Bush.

"For the first time a president of a friendly nation — especially the United States which was at the forefront of efforts to promote the emigration of Soviet Jews — now adopts a position that until this day only Arab states dared to take," Mr. Olmert said.

"So we say to the world to push these issues now and create a public and divisive debate about them are themselves creating linkage and that is detrimental to peace," he added.

Germany pledges further moves

(Continued from page 1)

German minister. While welcoming him, Mr. Kababji praised Jordanian-German relations and called for further improving ties.

He pointed out that Germany's contributions to Jordan did not only cover development projects but also infrastructure projects and services. He noted that Germany's contributions to restoring ancient and historic sites in Jordan showed Germany's interest in Jordan's present, past and future.

He voiced hope that such interest will continue in the service of both countries.

SLA fire kills UNIFIL soldier

(Continued from page 1)

taken U.N. soldiers ... hostage. As a result of the exchange of fire, a man from the U.N. was apparently killed and four others wounded," it said.

Asked about the Israeli version Mr. Goksel told Reuters: "There is no doubt in our minds that the SLA had more than ample information that there were prisoners held there."

"We told them several times U.N. soldiers had been taken hostage ... we were telling the SLA and passing messages to the (Israeli army) we were there and please don't fire."

The Israeli army's account said the guerrillas started the shooting.

"After the exchange of fire it became clear the terrorists had

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Defensive changes give Spurs early-season boost

LONDON (R) — English first division Tottenham, seeking stability on and off the field after the turmoil caused by their massive debts, are receiving an early-season lift from the influence of new manager Peter Shreeves.

Shreeves, who took over when Terry Venables switched from coach to managing director as part of a takeover to save the ailing London club, has made bold defensive changes that have paid off with encouraging league form.

Spurs go into Saturday's first division match at home to city rivals Queen's Park Rangers with three wins and only one defeat in their opening five matches — a sequence owing much to greater resilience at the back.

Club captain Gary Mabbutt believes the strengthening of his side's previously shaky defence could be the key to a genuine title challenge this season.

The improvement has followed Shreeves' decision to replace Norwegian goalkeeper Erik

Thorstvedt with 19-year-old Ian Walker and convert striker Paul Stewart to a midfielder.

Mabbutt said: "People have criticised our defence in the past and said it was a weakness that stopped us becoming champions, but I think we look a different proposition now."

Shreeves said: "The ability of Paul Stewart as a holding player in midfield has benefitted our defence, and Walker is in tip-top form. He has given me a nice problem because I have to choose between a boy who has kept three clean sheets and an experienced international."

Leeds, one of only two clubs still unbeaten in the first division, defend their record away to Chelsea with England pair Tony Dorigo and David Batty fit after minor injuries suffered in the 1-0 defeat by Germany Wednesday.

Left-back Dorigo, who pays his first visit to Chelsea since his £1.3 million (\$2.2 million) transfer from the London club last May,

has recovered from a bruised foot, while midfielder Batty has responded to treatment for a "dead leg."

Striker Rod Wallace is out with a groin injury which needs an operation, so midfielder Steve Hodge looks set to play his first full game since his move to Nottingham Forest in July.

Leaders Manchester United, the other side still unbeaten, await fitness reports on Soviet international Andrei Kanchelskis and England defender Paul Parker before naming the side to face Southampton away.

Kanchelskis limped off last Saturday against Norwich with a recurrence of an Achilles injury that had kept him out of the previous four games.

Manager Alex Ferguson said: "Kanchelskis is 90 per cent fit. Paul Parker got a slight knock on the leg in the England game Wednesday but should be okay. I will have a look at both players again tomorrow."

U.S. trying to build Olympic basketball team that will never be forgotten

NEW YORK (AP) — They like Mike. And Larry. And Magic. USA basketball is trying to build a U.S. Olympic team that will never be forgotten.

The selection committee is looking for a dream team — led by Magic Johnson, Michael Jordan and Larry Bird — that couldn't be matched after the novelty of NBA players in the Olympics wears off and the prospect of a hot summer in a cramped Athletes' Village discourages prospective players.

"It would be so exciting having a team with those three," Bird's lawyer, Bob Woolf, said. "It would never be forgotten."

Johnson, Charles Barkley and Karl Malone haven't wavered in their desire to play since 1989 when the door opened for Olympic participation by NBA players,

and it's impossible to imagine that all-NBA players would not be invited.

Nice start. Those three and the college guys who went to the Pan Am Games might be enough to bring home the gold from Barcelona.

But from that beginning, a once-in-a-lifetime club that also includes Jordan, Bird, Patrick, Ewing, John Stockton, Scottie Pippen, Chris Mullin and David Robinson reportedly is set.

C.M. Newton, chairman of the 13-man selection committee, said for now the committee is working from a pool of top players, determining the degree of each player's interest.

"Our desire is no different than ever before," Newton said, "and that's to put together the best possible team that can be put

together. But the uniqueness of this being the first time for NBA players is there."

Jordan certainly would be the biggest catch for the committee, and Johnson and Barkley have pressured their Chicago Bulls rival to join the club. Despite reports that Jordan has agreed to play in Spain, his management group insists a decision hasn't been made.

"Michael's status hasn't changed — he's undecided," Prospers spokesman Ted Ewanick said. "Because of time constraints, the fact he played in the Olympics in 1984 and his desire not to take a spot from a deserving player who never was in the 1984 team."

"I tell him that we can do something that could be truly great," Johnson said of his conversations with Jordan.

Piggott aiming for 30th classic victory

DONCASTER, England (R) — Remarkable 55-year-old, Lester Piggott, partners 5-1 third favourite Micheletti in Saturday's St. Leger, final classic of the English flat racing season, and the form book says he can win.

Piggott enjoyed 29 classics successes before retiring in 1985. Another major victory would give the 11-times former champion a record-equalling ninth Leger triumph and his first classic since his dramatic return to the turf 11 months ago.

Piggott's 41 winners this season include two vintage performances at Doncaster Thursday, second day of the Leger meeting.

Most race fans can readily recall his most recent Leger success in 1984 when Commanche Run gave everything up the long, punishing Doncaster Straight.

Less will remember St. Paddy winning the 1960 event for the late Sir Noel Murless, Piggott's first Leger win.

The burden of re-writing the record books falls on the least experienced runner in the 10-strong field.

But Micheletti, owned by Charles St. George and trained by Henry Cecil — two of Pig-

gott's oldest friends — is just the sort of improving and late-developing colt to win this 14½ furlongs (2.9 kms) test. Some rain would help his cause.

Unsighted on a racecourse until July but unbeaten in his three races since, Micheletti, a half brother to 1989 Leger winner Michelozzo, has been working particularly well at home.

Piggott deserted Royal Ascot winner Saddlers' Hall to team up with his old friends, the men who provided him with his comeback ride last year.

The two horses preferred ahead of Micheletti are French Raider Toulon (3-1) and Corrupt (4-1).

The pair started 4-1 joint favourites for the Epsom Derby in June but flopped badly behind Generous, who goes for the Prix d'Arc De Triomphe early next month.

Both have won since Epsom and look sure to give a much better account of themselves. Toulon, owned by Prince Khalid Abdullah, will have the benefit of champion jockey Pat Eddery on board.

Corrupt is a tough performer on his day but trainer Neville

Callaghan and jockey Frankie Dettori have still to win a classic.

Paul Cole, trainer of Generous and last year's Leger winner, the unattractively named Snurge, relies on 6-1 chance Fly Away Soon.

The Colt is another who has improved all season, but some of his racing has been on the all-weather surface at Lingfield, a more usual venue for the sport's lesser lights.

Best of the outsiders may be Jahafl (14-1), disappointing earthen in the season but a useful winter at Goodwood last time out when tried over a longer distance.

The Colt's trainer Dick Hern

has won the Leger six times and jockey Willie Carson three.

Athletics meet organisers try to contain rising fees of sportsmen

Athletics meet organisers try to contain rising fees of sportsmen

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP) — While athletes push their physical limits ever further, some track stars are discovering the financial limits of meet organisers.

"Some have just become too greedy," said Wilfried Meert, the organiser of Friday's Ivo Van Damme Memorial, after dismissing the demands of the Santa Monica Track Club, which includes injured Carl Lewis and Leroy Burrell.

In a gradual shift from amiable handshake deals with athletes eager to make an extra buck 15 years ago, people like Meert now face a shield of calculating agents trying to make the most out of an athlete's short career.

For the 15th edition of the memorial, both sides came up empty-handed.

Meert said Santa Monica manager Joe Douglas asked for more than \$100,000 for seven of his athletes, travel and hotel costs excluded.

"It did not even include Lewis, so we had to say: Sorry, it would be a \$115,000 joke," Meert said in an interview.

After Lewis called off, "not a soul was asking for the other Santa Monica members," he said.

After the snub, Douglas told officials at a meeting in Italy's Rieti "that he would never come back to Brussels and he would make sure Lewis did likewise," said Meert.

"Cologne also said the demands were excessive for a group without Lewis," he said. But lacking other crowd pullers, one of the main sponsors said "we are not paying so much money if none of the stars shows up."

"So they came back on their



Carl Lewis

another for the best starting list in the short summer season. This has sent prices through the roof.

In 1988, organisers from Brussels, Zurich and Cologne joined forces to resist the demands of hurdler Edwin Moses and sprinter Florence Griffith-Joyner, who asked \$30,000 and 25,000 respectively.

Meert thought he had a deal going again with Cologne this year not to cede to Douglas' demands, but market principles got in the way.

"Cologne also said the demands were excessive for a group without Lewis," he said. But lacking other crowd pullers, one of the main sponsors said "we are not paying so much money if none of the stars shows up."

"As far as my appearance fee is concerned, it's going up," Powell said.

decision."

The first memorial, 15 years ago, was staged for \$115,000, or the asking price of the appearance of a depleted Santa Monica Club.

Friday's memorial — one of the year's best-attended meets — costs more than \$1 million which Pales compares to the most prestigious event in Europe, Zurich's Weltklasse, which has a budget of \$2.35 million.

But there is no dearth of talent following the World Championships in Tokyo.

Mike Powell, who set new record in the long jump, is the man of the moment. Almost overnight his price soared from four digits to more than \$25,000.

"I'm hiring a lawyer to divorce my fat!"

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 14, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Be creative and continue to show your devotion and affection for those with whom you have any sort of personal interest. You feel inspired to gain those aspirations which mean most to you now.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Your family may seem to be in a bad humor and so pushing you two hard towards the ambitions that they want but go along with them and save real antagonism.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) A day to use much care in motion for some accident could occur more readily than usually unless you stop, look and listen where there is possibility of trouble.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You now find that most everyone is too preoccupied with their own interests of every day living and you are no exception so avoid money-mind activities.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 22) Your interests in some new way to get rid of those personal obligations is all right so long as you do not take some big chance that could wreck your security.

PIRATES: (July 23 to August 21) A day to make sure you spend your time getting rid of conditions that are not helpful to you in siding those who are less fortunate.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Now you have some very interesting means by which to gain the good will of some fascinating acquaintance by doing something that she wants to do.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Whatever you have in mind requiring some approval from an official can get

you in a lot of trouble if you try to force or be too demanding.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) New scenes and new contacts appeal to you very much but make sure you are not running away from some things you are tired of doing for your return is sure to be done.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You are now able to gain the good will of an expert or even to whom you are obliged by showing you attend to your debts with care.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 19) You now are able to gain much work done that you have been doing during the week if you forget outside appeals and get busy and finish your own chores.

PISCES: (February 19 to March 20) This day you want to have a good time and if you can confine yourself to inexpensive pleasures you can have matters get done to your satisfaction.

TODAY'S SHIFT: If your child were born today she or he is one of those real characters who has it within their power to make you happy and right.

TONIGHT: This child will be more inclined at all kinds of social and entertainment events and could make a handsome living in this area if they have any interest in doing so.

"The stars impel, they do not control." What you make of your life is largely up to you.

World Resources - Diners & Co Inc. Amman - Pro De Jagers Amman - Anna Hotel - 6th circle

Energy Stone: Crystal.

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THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



IAAF chief makes no secret of ambition

TOKYO (R) — Primo Nebiolo, the controversial Italian who heads world athletics, makes no secret of his vaulting ambition.

Since he was elected president of the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) in 1981, the 68-year-old Turin lawyer has doggedly pursued a dream in which athletics takes over from soccer as the world's premier sport.

So it was with considerable satisfaction that Nebiolo announced the third World Championships had attracted 171 countries.

"This is the biggest number of countries that have taken part, not only in the athletics championships, but also in any sports event in the world," he told a news conference.

It all seems an age since Nebiolo took over the federation to find just three full-time staff in the London headquarters.

Now there are 50 in London and a further five in Rome as the sport has grown and the number of championships proliferated.

Athletics, which did not stage its own world championships until 1983, will now have one every two years after a recent IAAF congress decision.

Officials of the championship organising committee said they were informed by the Nepal Athletics Association Wednesday night that runner Krishna Baha-

not only has the sport mushroomed but so have the fortunes amassed by a few fortunate individuals since it went professional in 1983.

Carl Lewis, the leading sprinter and long jumper in the Nebiolo era, is a millionaire and many lesser names will never have to work in a regular job when they retire.

But critics believe his successes have been at the expense of the credibility of a sport, badly tarnished in recent years by a series of drug scandals.

They point to the 1987 Rome World Championships when officials tried to fix the long jump by deliberately mis-measuring a jump of Giovanni Evangelisti which gave the Italian the bronze medal.

Nebiolo can point with justification to his achievements in sports administration since he held the post of president of the Uni-

versity Sports Club of Turin 38 years ago.

Besides his position as IAAF president, he is also president of the Association of Summer International Olympic Federations and he has helped organise a succession of major sporting events.

But critics believe his successes have been at the expense of the credibility of a sport, badly tarnished in recent years by a series of drug scandals.

They point to the 1987 Rome World Championships when officials tried to fix the long jump by deliberately mis-measuring a jump of Giovanni Evangelisti which gave the Italian the bronze medal.

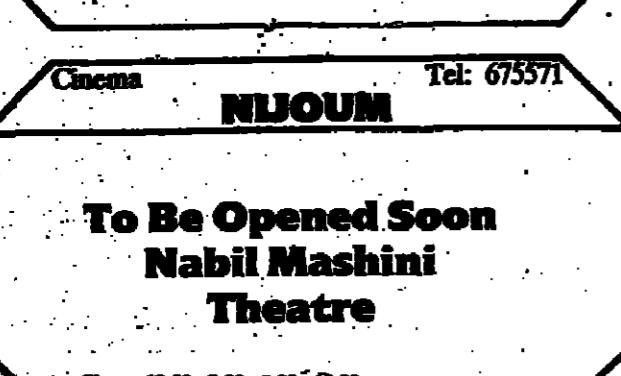
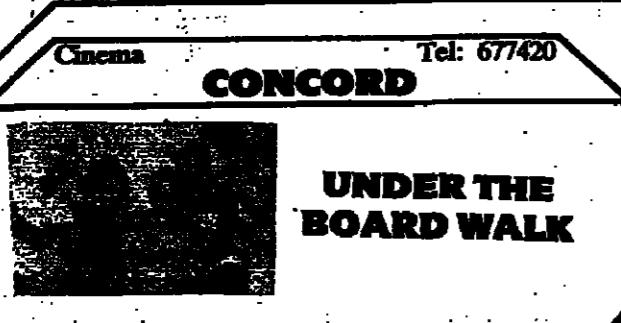
Nebiolo can point with justification to his achievements in sports administration since he held the post of president of the Uni-

versity Sports Club of Turin 38 years ago.

Financial Markets		Jordan Times			
in co-operation with		Cairo Amman Bank			
U.S. Dollar in International Markets					
Currency	NEW YORK CLOSE	TOKYO CLOSE			
Sterling Pound	1.7340	1.7325			
Deutsche Mark	1.6835	1.6875			
Swiss Franc	1.4787	1.4798			
French Franc	5.7435	5.7443*			
Japanese Yen	134.72	134.50			
European Currency Unit	1.2145	1.2140*			
IND Per STD					
European Opening in 1000 a.m. GMT					
Eurocurrency Interest Rates	Date: 12/9/91				
Currency	1 MTHS	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS	
U.S. Dollar	5.50	5.43	5.68	5.87	
Sterling Pound	10.57	10.00	9.93	9.93	
Deutsche Mark	9.00	9.00	9.15	9.37	
Swiss Franc	8.00	8.00	7.93	7.68	
French Franc	9.18	9.31	9.31	9.43	
Japanese Yen	7.00	6.82	6.40	6.31	
European Currency Unit	9.68	9.72	9.75	9.75	
Interest bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.					
Precious Metals	Date: 12/9/91				
Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm*	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	544.50	6.70	Silver	3.95	.090
21 Karat					
Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin	Date: 12/9/91				
Currency	Bid	Offer			
U.S. Dollar	.687	.689			
Sterling Pound	1.1889	1.1948			
Deutsche Mark	.4068	.4087			
Swiss Franc	.4639	.4662			
French Franc	.1197	.1203			
Japanese Yen	.5101	.5127			
Dutch Guilder	.3607	.3625			
Swedish Krona	.1117	.1123			
Italian Lira*	.0544	.0547			
Belgian Franc	.01963	.01973			
* Per 100					
Other Currencies	Date: 12/9/91				
Currency	Bid	Offer			
Bahraini Dinar	1.7700	1.7750			
Lebanese Lira*	.0770	.0772			
Saudi Riyal	.1829	.1837			
Kuwaiti Dinar	-	-			
Qatari Riyal	.1860	.1870			
Egyptian Pound	.2050	.2150			
Omanai Riyal	1.7300	1.7450			
UAE Dirham	.1860	.1870			
Greek Drachma*	.3620	.3700			
Cypriot Pound	1.4600	1.5000			
* Per 100					
CAB Indices for Amman Financial Market	Date: 12/9/91				
Index	10/9/91	Close	11/9/91	Close	
All-Shares	115.00	115.71			
Banking Sector	99.26	99.39			
Insurance Sector	119.11	119.50			
Industry Sector	137.82	139.49			
Services Sector	127.67	128.31			
December 31, 1990 = 100					
**NOTE: The big jump in the industry and All-Shares indices, compared to their levels of (115.00 and 109.61) respectively on September 9, 1991, is attributed to the rise in the share price of the Arab Petrol Co. from JD(10) to more than JD(100).					

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession of the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.			
One Sterling	1.7300/10	U.S. dollars	Canadian dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.1365.70	Deutschmarks	Dutch guilders
1.6900/10	1.9050/60	Swiss francs	Belgian francs
1.4807/14	34.85/90	French francs	Italian lire
5.7300/50	1265/1266	Japanese yen	Swedish crowns
134.05/15	6.1500/50	Norwegian crowns	Danish crowns
6.6200/50	6.5275/25	U.S. dollars	
One ounce of gold	343.80/344.30		



Former East German economic supremo says communism 'an illusion'

BONN (R) — Guenter Mittag, former communist East Germany's economic chief, says it became clear to him 10 years ago that the Stalinist state was heading for bankruptcy.

But his proposals for reform were ignored and he had been made a scapegoat, he said in an interview with the German weekly *Der Spiegel*.

Mr. Mittag, 64, widely blamed for ruining East Germany's economy before German unification last year, has been charged with fraud and abuse of public trust. He is awaiting trial but has remained free because of his frail health.

Asked what went wrong in East Germany, once hailed as the Soviet Bloc's showcase economy, he said: "The socialist system itself was false. It is an illusion... it will never be tried again."

Only a market economy, based on incentive and profit, could work, he said.

Mr. Mittag, who was briefly arrested after the fall of the hardline communist regime in 1989, has been accused of hiding the fact that East Germany was on the verge of bankruptcy.

"The economic collapse began in 1981 and became apparent in 1983," he said.

"East German industry could never have recovered on its own strength," he said. "I would never have filed for bankruptcy, but as far as I was concerned, he who goes to war is step-by-step condemned with West Germany."

One reason for the slump in growth and foreign trade, he said, was a cut in Soviet oil deliveries, "and the whole politburo was informed of this situation."

But no changes in the command economy were tolerated and the socialist course "was kept

down to the last detail, down to the price of flowers."

"All my proposals were rejected," Mr. Mittag said. "I always tried to save money in the state budget, reduce administration, cut defence expenditure... and thus make the means available."

He said his proposals were thrown out by other politburo members, including state and party bosses Erich Honecker and Prime Minister Willi Stoph, whom he described as head of the "blockhead faction."

Mr. Mittag, always considered a close friend of Mr. Honecker, told *Der Spiegel* they often went hunting together but: "We always had serious differences (in our work)."

"At the end of 1987, I came to the conclusion that every chance had been blown. No help was possible from the East and we could not turn to the West for comprehensive economic cooperation because of latent political resistance within our own ranks," he said.

Mr. Stoph and others accused him of not being up to his job and blamed him for the economic debacle, he said.

Mr. Mittag said politburo members with good contacts in Moscow talked behind his back. At one point, then Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev warned Mr. Honecker that his chief economist could be a Western spy.

What if East Germany were still a separate state today, its fortified border and the Berlin wall still in place?

"(That's) beyond description," said Mr. Mittag. "The thought of it sends shivers down my spine. Murder and manslaughter. Mystery. Hunger."

Saudi firm to set up banks in two Soviet republics soon

MANAMA, Bahrain (R) — A Saudi business conglomerate plans to set up commercial investment banks in the Soviet republics of Russia and Kazakhstan to finance economic development there, a company spokesman has said.

Executive of Jeddah-based Dallah Al Baraka Group would travel to the Kazakhstani capital Alma Ata in October to open the first bank. Majid Al Refai, the group's senior executive for investment banking, told Reuters in a telephone interview.

Negotiations for the second bank, to be based in Moscow, were well under way and Dallah Al Baraka executives would travel there later in September to finalise the arrangements, he said.

"The plans for the first bank are almost finished. We have an Arab general manager who speaks Russian and its Russian employees are being trained abroad," Mr. Refai said. "Our chairman has talked to (Russian President Boris) Yeltsin about the second bank and we already

have the licence," he added.

The banks, which will be joint ventures with the governments of the respective republics, are the first business ventures of their kind since the two countries restored ties last September after a 52-year break.

Last month the Saudi government signed a \$1.5 billion loan pledged to Moscow last year as a reward for its support during the Gulf crisis.

Victor Zhilin, the Soviet commercial attaché in Riyadh, told Reuters Moscow had already received the first half of the credit — a \$750 million balance of payments loan from the kingdom's Riyadh Bank.

The Riyadh-based Saudi Fund for Development has agreed to provide the remaining \$750 million for unspecified projects over the next three years.

Mr. Refai said his firm would be run on Islamic principles, which means they will avoid interest-related

Transactions.

The Bank of Kazakhstan, which has a large Muslim popula-

tion, would have an authorised capital of 150 million roubles and would concentrate on trade finance and leasing of imported industrial or agricultural equipment.

Dallah Al Baraka, with a 51 per cent stake, would provide half of the paid-in capital of 75 million roubles.

Mr. Refai gave no further details. But Mr. Zhilin said it was understood the bank might help finance development of Kazakhstan's giant Tengiz oilfield near the Caspian Sea and modernisation of its refinery at Karaganda.

The U.S. oil firm Chevron Corp. is negotiating to develop the oilfield, which with potential reserves of up to 25 billion barrels is one of the largest oil discoveries this decade.

Dallah Al Baraka, headed by Saudi businessman Salih Kamis, is one of Saudi Arabia's biggest private conglomerates with assets of more than \$4 billion. It includes the Al Baraka Islamic Investment Bank.

Mr. Zhilin said Saudi business-

men were showing strong interest

China orders curbs on new construction to tighten credit

on the construction boom and the debt defaults that are plaguing the government," he said.

The total defaults of businesses, including state ones, stood at a hefty 270 billion yuan (\$50 billion) this year, the China Daily said earlier.

The move signalled a firm commitment by Chinese leaders to crack down on debt-ridden state enterprises that are mainly responsible for the building boom, Western diplomats said.

The order came in a circular issued Aug. 29 by the state council, or cabinet, the newspaper said.

"The state council circular forbids all construction projects to proceed except for those in agriculture, water conservancy, energy, communications, education, public health, grain storage, housing and technical upgrading in line with the government's industrial policy," it said.

Investment in new construction soared 71.2 per cent in the first seven months of this year compared with 1990, it said.

"A sharp rise in capital construction projects in the first half of this year threatens the state's efforts to control the total fixed assets input and to adjust the country's industrial structure," the newspaper said.

China's economic planners, alarmed by an overheated economy and runaway inflation, tightened credit in an austerity policy in September, 1988.

The credit screws have since been loosened, but Western diplomats said the latest circular was a sign of a new wave of badly needed rationalisation of China's debt-ridden economy.

"This is an early sign that the senior leadership is willing to take reforms seriously and to take a stronger stand on state enterprises," a senior Western diplomat said.

"They are the main offenders

U.S. cuts discount

rate to 5%

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. Federal Reserve (Fed) cut its key discount rate Friday to five per cent from 5.5 per cent in its latest effort to ensure an economic recovery after a year of recession.

The central bank's rate cut is effective immediately, and a leading commercial bank quickly took the cue to lower the cost of credit. Morgan Guaranty Trust Co., a big New York bank, cut its prime lending rate to eight per cent from 8.5 per cent.

The discount rate is the amount the central bank charges banks for short-term loans and influences the cost of money throughout the economy. Lower rates tend to spur spending and propel growth — just what the American economy needs as it tries to emerge from the recession that began in July, 1990.

The Fed had cut the discount rate from seven per cent to 5.5 per cent between last December and May.

The discount rate was last changed on April 30, when it was reduced to 5.5 per cent from six per cent because of the weak level of national economic activity.

By cutting the closely watched discount rate, the Fed was signalling

Serb rebels pour into army barracks; Croatia loses control of Kostajnica

BELGRADE (R) — Croatia said Friday that Serbian guerrillas were pouring into Yugoslav army barracks in seaports along the rebel republic's Adriatic coast as part of a continuing increase in military pressure.

Zagreb Radio reported that guerrillas from the Republic of Serbia and its ally Montenegro had infiltrated the region which has been cut off for two days from central Croatia because of fighting.

Guerrilla forces were seen entering barracks of the Serbian-led army at Sibenik, Benkovac and Split, it added.

Ethnic violence in Croatia has intensified in the south of the republic in the past week as part of the guerrilla campaign against independence for Croatia inside its present borders.

Fighting continued also in central and eastern regions of Croatia which suffered a psychological blow Thursday night when it lost control of Kostajnica, southeast of Zagreb.

Almost 400 Croatian police and national guards who surren-

dered after a battle lasting several days were allowed to reach safety in the neighbouring Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Osjek, the main town in eastern Croatia which borders Serbia, was hit by 200 mortar shells in overnight fighting in which seven people were hurt, Reuter correspondent Nikolic Antonov reported.

He said houses, a hospital and a school were damaged in the bombardment which halted train services in the town of 150,000.

Yugoslav President Stipe Mesić warned he might call for foreign intervention if the federal army continued to aid the Serbs.

Well over 400 people have been killed in fighting since Croatia and Slovenia declared independence on June 25.

"Unless the army withdraws within the period I have given it ... I will be obliged to call on the army's security and justice authorities to bring charges against those who do not implement the decision of the presidency," Mr. Mesić said.

"After this there remains the

possibility for me to request intervention from outside Yugoslavia as well," he told Yugoslav news agency, Tanjug.

Deputy Defence Minister General Marko Negovanovic told a news conference: "Whoever invades foreign forces is a traitor and any army which comes without our permission will be treated as an enemy."

The president of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Alija Izetbegovic, expressing fears that ever-widening violence could engulf his central republic, calling for a demilitarized zone on his border with Croatia.

The Serbs and the army have captured more than a third of Croatia since cutting a bridge in Maslinica in the south. It is the last link to a 360-kilometre swathe of coastal territory that includes Dubrovnik, Zadar and Split.

As representatives of the feuding republics met in the Hague for peace talks, EC envoy Herman Wijnseinds completed a shuttle between the battlefields in an effort to stop the bloodshed.



4 more die on eve of S. African peace convention

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Four more blacks, two of them policemen, were killed overnight as South Africa's warring factions put the finishing touches to a peace accord aimed at halting township violence, police said Friday.

The four deaths pushed the toll since Sunday to 121. By Thursday the count was 104, but police said 17 more died in hospital from injuries sustained in the fighting.

Police spokesman Frans Malherbe said four men armed with handguns approached a group of municipal policemen and tried to disarm them. A shooting ensued and two policemen were killed.

Two men armed with AK-47 automatic rifles walked into a restaurant at Vosloorus township east of Johannesburg Thursday night and sprayed patrons with gunfire, killing one woman and a man.

About 1,200 policemen and soldiers sealed off Phola Park squatter settlement east of Johannesburg and searched houses, cars and residents for weapons.

The squatter camp has seen some of the fiercest fighting during the past days.

An accord aimed at ending factional fighting between Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC) and the Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party that has cost 3,000 lives in the past year is to be signed at a multi-party convention Saturday.

The two groups, plus the government and church, business and labour movements, are expected to sign the accord in their most determined effort yet to quell the spear and gun battles.

Vowing his government would "leave no stone unturned" to end the township warfare, reformist president F.W. de Klerk said: "The peace accord to be signed Saturday can make an important contribution, provided that all parties who sign it live to the letter and the spirit of the agreement."

They announced the unilateral ceasefire to celebrate the imminent senate rejection of the treaty.

Meanwhile, the Japanese Foreign Ministry said Friday it foresees no increase in the size of American forces in Japan, whatever the outcome of a debate in the Philippines to close major bases there.

"In general, the U.S. government is trying to reduce the quantity of its forces in Asia. There will be no increase in U.S. forces in Japan, whatever happens in adjacent areas," ministry spokesman said.

While most black leaders were hopeful the accord might work, Dr. Buthelezi said the pact would not filter down to the grassroots level where the fighting actually takes place.

"I don't see any reason why this accord should work when the accord that we worked out in January with the ANC did not work," he added, referring to a bilateral ANC-Inkatha peace accord on Jan. 29 that fell apart within weeks.

Dr. Buthelezi said Mr. Mandela's movement was being hypocritical in agreeing to sign the accord because, he said, it had spurned recent Inkatha offers of reconciliation talks.

"I'm not signing because I believe it's going to work out, but if some people want it ... then I want to be part of that if that's part of the peace process," Dr. Buthelezi said.

Anti-apartheid cleric Archbishop Desmond Tutu was hopeful the accord would help ease tension in troubled spots.

"Remember some of the darkest days under apartheid that we have pulled through. This may be the darkest hour that comes before dawn. We must stand up for peace and commit ourselves to the new South Africa," he said.

Commonwealth Secretary General Emeeka Anyaoku said.

A peace agreement was to be signed Saturday, but reports from Johannesburg said some smaller black groups won't join in the pact, and others said they had little faith in it.

The Commonwealth meeting comes a week after South African President F.W. de Klerk proposed a new constitutional model that would extend the vote to the 30 million blacks of South Africa, while retaining effective veto rights for the 5 million whites.

The African National Congress, led by Nelson Mandela, has rejected the plan.

Speakers at the opening session made no reference to Mr. de Klerk's plan, and officials said it would not be the focus of the meeting.

Some countries, like the United States, and some international sports bodies already have lifted economic and other sanctions against South Africa.

But the Commonwealth countries voted last February to peg their sanctions to actual moves adopted by the South African government rather than to its statements of intent.

Mr. McDougall said the committee must now "define our conditions for further movement more clearly." It also must look at a post-apartheid South Africa and see "how the Commonwealth can help it emerge."

The committee is to study a report on training programmes in areas like public administration, economic and fiscal management, legal and security services and diplomacy.

The members of the committee are Canada, Australia, Guyana, India, Malaysia, Nigeria, Tanzania and Zimbabwe.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Top North Korean diplomat defects

SEOUL (R) — A North Korean diplomat has defected to South Korea, the highest-ranking Pyongyang official to do so, government officials in Seoul said on Friday. They identified the defector as Ko Young-Hwan, 38, who worked in North Korea's Foreign Ministry and had served as a diplomat in Africa since 1979. "Working as the first secretary at the North Korean embassy in Congo, he sought asylum to our government in May," a statement released by the Korea Overseas Information Service said. Mr. Ko is the most senior official to defect to the South since the Korean peninsula was divided in 1945. South Korea had maintained silence on the defection at Mr. Ko's request. He feared for his family in Pyongyang and in Congo, the statement said. Mr. Ko left his wife and a six-year-old daughter in Congo, Mr. Ko's mother and his other daughter, aged nine, live in Pyongyang. Mr. Ko's father, a former senior official, died in 1979.

China expels British reporter

PEKING (R) — China has ordered the Peking correspondent for the British newspaper the Independent to leave the country by Sunday. The reporter, Andrew Higgins, said Friday. "I was told by the Police Foreign Affairs Office that they had received orders from a higher responsible organ to inform me that I must leave China by Sept. 15." Mr. Higgins said by telephone. This is the first expulsion of a resident correspondent from China since 1989, when two American journalists were expelled for their reporting of the crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrators in Peking in June that year. Mr. Higgins said the police official did not give a reason. He had been summoned to the Foreign Ministry Thursday, where an official took his press pass from him in the parking lot. That official also did not give a reason. But Mr. Higgins said that in June, while on a reporting trip to east China's Shandong province, he was searched and found in possession of a secret Communist Party document detailing arrests in restive Inner Mongolia.

Fierce fighting reported in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO (AP) — Tamil rebels killed six government soldiers and wounded 18 others in fierce fighting that has raged in dense northeastern jungles for two weeks, military officials said Friday. The army also killed a large but unspecified number of guerrillas of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) said the officials at the joint operations command in Colombo.

Commonwealth ministers meet to review Pretoria sanctions

NEW DELHI (AP) — Foreign ministers of nine Commonwealth nations opened a two-day meeting Friday to review the gradual dismantling of apartheid in South Africa and define how that should affect international sanctions.

Canadian External Affairs Minister Barbara McDougall, who led the meeting of former British colonies, urged an approach "that will give credit where it is due and sustain the pressure for further change."

The Commonwealth Committee of Foreign Minister on southern Africa is to draw up recommendations for a Commonwealth summit meeting next month in Zimbabwe that may consider a further relaxation of sanctions.

Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao praised Pretoria's steps toward ending its official system of racial discrimination, but said "much remains to be done ... there can be no room for settling back."

He singled out the lack of agreement on a new constitution and the continuing violence among blacks.

At least 40 people have been killed this week in the latest rounds of fighting between supporters of the African National Congress and the Zulu-based Inkatha Movement. The battle has killed about 6,000 people in recent years.

Commonwealth Secretary General Emeeka Anyaoku of Nigeria warned that the unrest sweeping through the townships could still derail multiracial democracy.

"It is the worst violence in the history of South Africa, and if allowed to continue for much longer would sow a legacy of bitterness ... difficult to eradicate."

The committee is to study a report on training programmes in areas like public administration, economic and fiscal management, legal and security services and diplomacy.

The members of the committee are Canada, Australia, Guyana, India, Malaysia, Nigeria, Tanzania and Zimbabwe.

COLUMN

Former partisan confesses to 45-year-old killing

ROME (AP) — A former Communist partisan has confessed to killing a Roman Catholic priest 45 years ago — a killing for which another partisan fighter served a 10-year prison term. Prosecutor Elio Bevilacqua of Reggio Emilia, near Bologna, said 71-year-old William Gatti has confessed to the murder of the Rev. Uberto Pessina on June 18, 1946. The prosecutor said Gatti "confessed everything" and that there was no need to hold him pending a trial.

Pedophiles assist in tracking down child strangler

HOORN, Netherlands (AP) — Police have asked pedophiles advocacy group to help them track down a killer who strangled a young girl to death in the Netherlands' most shocking crime of the summer. Hitchhikers found 11-year-old Jessica Laven's body along a highway 180 kilometres from here in July. She was last seen alive four days before at a public swimming pool in this seaside town north of Amsterdam with a man who eyewitnesses said appeared to be in his early fifties, according to police spokesman Hans Weeda. Mr. Weeda said detectives have not established whether Jessica had been sexually molested during the ordeal. But he said the pedophiles group may help solve the murder because they can offer "a bit of expertise that we don't have about something that exists in this world." "We don't find this unusual at all. In a criminal investigation you have to get as broad a range of information as possible," Mr. Weeda said.

Number of Japanese centenarians reaches new high

TOKYO (R) — Japan will have a record number of 100-year-olds by the end of the month, the Health and Welfare Ministry said Tuesday. It estimated there would be 3,625 people aged 100 or above by the end of September, an increase of 327 over last year. "The number of elderly people has been increasing every year," a ministry report said. Figures show the trend started in 1970. According to the annual listing of elderly Japanese issued ahead of respect for the aged day Sunday, about 80 per cent of Japanese centenarians are women. Japan's oldest resident for the second consecutive year is Wakako Shirahama, a 113-year-old lady living in Miyazaki prefecture, on the southern island of Kyushu. The oldest man is Giken Oita, 108, of Tochigi prefecture, near Tokyo. He is the only male over 107.

Cobra guards gems at exhibition

COLOMBO (R) — A poison-cobra is guarding the world's largest sapphire from theft at a jewellery exhibition in the Sri Lankan capital, Colombo. "We thought this would be a better security system than anything else," a spokesman for the Sri Lanka Gem Corporation said Monday. The snake, in a glass cage, is protecting two gems worth 45 million rupees (\$1.1 million) at an international gem and jewellery exhibition. The stones, which belong to the corporation and are not for sale, are a 393 carat sapphire — the world's largest — and a 103 carat star sapphire, the spokesman said. The cobra has been used once before at a similar exhibition in Sweden.

Bed owned by Jagger, Wyman fetches \$24,700

LONDON (AP) — A 16th-century, carved oak four-poster bed once owned by Mick Jagger and then by Bill Wyman of the Rolling Stones fetched £14,200 (\$24,700) at auction. "I'm just going to enjoy owning it and sleeping on it," said the buyer, Ray Gaffney of London. Jagger bought the bed in the late 1960s and used it in his country home, Stargrove in Berkshire, where he lived for a time with singer Marianne Faithfull. Wyman, the Stones' bass player, bought the bed from Jagger in the late 1970s, according to Sotheby's auctioneers. Along with the bed, Sotheby's said Gaffney would get a photograph of Wyman sitting on it.

Pro-bases Manila senators reject face-saving formula for Washington

MANILA (R) — A group of Philippine senators fighting a rear-guard action to keep U.S. forces in the country rejected Friday a face-saving formula allowing the United States military a rent-free, three-year withdrawal period.

Anti-bases senators who have refused to ratify a new treaty with Washington allowing U.S. use of Subic Bay Naval Base for 10 more years had suggested the three-year formula to allow American forces a graceful exit from the former U.S. colony.

But Gen. Gonzales said a rejection of the treaty in Monday's vote was now virtually inevitable.

"If we cannot reverse the situation, at least (we can) soften the impact on the relationship between our two countries," he said.

Mrs. Aquino says the Philippines needs the money and cannot afford to evict the 8,000 American servicemen at a time when the economy is reeling from the impact of a series of natural disasters, including the eruption of Mount Pinatubo which killed 1,000 people.

But Manila says the treaty is worth \$800 million a year in trade concessions, financial and military assistance. The United States has also agreed to help with \$5.3 billion restructuring of Philippine commercial debt.

"We feel that a treaty of withdrawal will only confuse the issue," Senator John Osmena said.

Mrs. Aquino would announce a plan of action that would be "democratic and constitutional."

Flood-related accidents take death toll beyond 200 in Bangladesh

DHAKA (AP) — Flood-related accidents and drownings killed at least 100 people Thursday, raising the death toll from two weeks of flooding to more than 210, news reports said.

In the northern district of Rangpur, at least 60 people were killed in two accidents, the Sangbad newspaper reported Friday.

A bus with 30 passengers ran off an inundated road and was swamped by river waters, the newspaper said. There were no reports of survivors.

In another part of the district, a boat capsized in a flooded river and at least 30 people drowned. It has said all major rivers in northern Bangladesh are in spate.

At least 40 people died in drownings, house collapses and snake bites in other areas of northern Bangladesh, newspapers said. Fatal snake bites are more common during floods as humans and reptiles seek dry land.

The government has said at least 1 million people are homeless, stranded or have lost their crops. It has said all major rivers in northern Bangladesh are in spate.

The government's Flood Information Centre in Dhaka has said water 2.4 metres deep covers parts of Dinajpur, a town of 100,000 people about 275 kilometres northeast of Dhaka.

Amongst the outside, the government has said that the flooding has caused a lot of damage to agriculture and to the economy.

Health problems like diabetes abound. Educational efforts are under way to prevent an outbreak of AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases among people who generally take an open view toward casual sex.

Years of "benign neglect" by former colonial powers left infrastructure problems ranging from teacher shortages and poor communications to inadequate airstrips and unpaved roads.

Kolonia, Federated States of Micronesia (AP) — Island nations across the Pacific face environmental threats from outside and social problems at home as they try to meet the future without losing their identity.

To the eye, not much has changed in recent decades. Tourists come to escape the rat race. The diving, swimming and sailing are as good as ever in still-pristine waters. The landscape is lush, the pace slow.

But island leaders, working to overcome the traditional "no worry" attitude, tell people their comfortable way of life may be gone tomorrow unless they act today.

Anamity toward the outside is growing because of problems the islands had little or no part in creating. Nuclear testing, chemical weapons, the greenhouse effect and toxic-waste dumping.

Health problems like diabetes abound. Educational efforts are under way to prevent an